

mid east

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THE WASHINGTON POST

DATE 10 JAN 75 PAGE 16

# Syria Gets Migs, Other Arms In New Massive Soviet Airlift

By Dusko Doder

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union has completed a massive arms airlift to Syria believed to have included an unspecified number of Mig-21 aircraft to replace losses suffered recently by the Syrian air force, diplomatic sources disclosed yesterday.

The airlift was carried out during November and December and involved roughly 40 medium and long-range Soviet transport planes, including Antonov-22s, each capable of carrying 220,000-pound payloads, the sources said.

More than a dozen Syrian Mig-21 jets were reported to have been shot down in sporadic Israeli-Syrian air battles during the past five months.

The airlift was described as the biggest Soviet arms shipment by air to Syria. The Soviets carried out an airlift of weapons to Syria during September and early October that involved 20 or so medium-range Antonov-12 transport planes.

About 150 new Soviet military advisers were reported to have been flown to Syria in the September-October airlift, but there was disagreement among Western experts on whether that shipment included any important new missile systems.

The arms shipments to Syria indicated Moscow's continued interest in bolstering its position in the Arab world. There was speculation among Western sources that the latest shipments also may have included sophisticated low-altitude SAM-3 missiles in anticipation of major Israeli strikes.

According to official Israeli accounts, Syria has lost 45 aircraft in aerial combat since 1967, nearly half of those shot down during a string of clashes in the last five months.

There was no official U.S. comment on the latest Israeli-

Syrian clashes. But the State Department said yesterday that a new U.S. Middle East peace initiative would get under way in the coming months.

Charles Bray, the department's spokesman, made the statement in response to questions about Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's reported assertion that he had given up hope in U.S. efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The administration, Bray said, intends to "give priority to the Middle East and its problems and in the United States view the approach which could lead to an interim Suez Canal agreement is most feasible."

Sadat said in an interview with Milhem Karam, publisher of the Lebanese newspaper Al Balad, that his contacts with Washington on a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict during 1971 have resulted in disappointments. "It was a test of peace and Washington flunked the test," Sadat was quoted as saying.

Bray said: "If reports of Sadat's remarks are accurate, that would be a matter of regret."

Meantime diplomatic sources in Cairo described Sadat's scheduled trip to Yugoslavia and his talks with President Tito later this week as a new departure in Egypt's efforts to reach a peaceful solution in the Middle East, according to UPI. Tito is said to have been one of the principal channels of communication between Washington and Cairo and is expected to play the role of intermediary in the coming months.

Another possible intermediary could be U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who said Monday he was ready to take a personal initiative in the Middle East "as soon as I consider it useful and helpful."

Waldheim said he was wait-

ing to see if Washington would arrange "proximity" talks between Egypt and Israel on the interim Suez Canal agreement, adding that he expected the situation to clarify within the next few weeks.

Waldheim's personal involvement in peace-seeking efforts would, in effect, preempt the role of Gunnar Jarring the U.N. mediator, whose attempts to get negotiations started have been repeatedly frustrated.

**The Washington Merry-Go-Round**

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, Jan. 12, 1973

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# Terrorists Plot Tel Aviv Plane Dive

By Jack Anderson

The Black September terrorists, who planned the Munich massacre of Israeli athletes, are now plotting to hijack an airliner and crash it into the heart of bustling Tel Aviv.

The plot has been picked up by intelligence agencies which monitor the secret radio bands used by the Arab terrorists. The same intelligence sources intercepted similar ominous messages shortly before fanatics machine gunned the Tel Aviv airport and, again, before terrorists staged the Munich tragedy.

In the earlier instances, the messages were vague about where the terrorists would strike and what exactly they planned to do. The latest messages about crash-diving an airliner into Tel Aviv have been more specific.

Among others, American security officials have tipped off Rep. John Murphy (D-N. Y.), who has written to President Nixon about the Arab plot against Tel Aviv. Murphy will cite the bizarre scheme, as added evidence of the need for a stringent anti-hijacking bill.

Murphy has introduced a bill which would compel the U. S. to bar commercial planes from any nation that refused

to prosecute a hijacker and return the pirated plane and ransom at once.

## Offensive Urged

American military advisers have urged President Thieu to mount a new offensive across the South Vietnamese border into neighboring Laos.

They have asked him to follow up the saturation bombing of the north with a strike against the Boloven Plateau in southern Laos. This is known to be a major staging area for North Vietnamese attacks.

The American advisers promised, if Thieu would launch an offensive to support it with U.S. air power. But the South Vietnamese Army was so badly battered during last year's Communist offensive that Thieu isn't prepared to send it back into action.

Although most losses have been replaced and the army is back to full strength, the discipline, training and morale of the troops are still lagging. Not only are the replacements green, but the ceasefire negotiations have made all troops cautious. They don't want to be the last to die before a cease-fire is declared.

Meanwhile, the Saigon government is drafting men at the rate of about 18,000 a

month, but deserters are leaving the army in almost equal numbers.

## Washington Whirl

**Police Brutality**—Over the past year, the FBI referred nearly 2900 police-brutality cases to the Justice Department for prosecution. Yet only 86 cases ever made it into the courts, and less than half a dozen policemen were actually convicted. The Justice Department explained to us that it's difficult to identify violators and prove intent, that juries are also reluctant to convict policemen. But civil liberties lawyers charge that the civil rights laws are woefully inadequate and poorly enforced.

**Brass Ring**—Today we award the brass ring, good for one free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, to Arlen Fulwiler, a Montgomery College, Md., teacher. He learned that Ernest Newman a 50-year-old mail carrier for the college, was about to be fired for illiteracy. Fulwiler quietly began teaching Newman the fundamentals of reading and writing. Not only was Newman's job saved, but he told us joyfully: "I'm learning how to write my address, and I wouldn't give up my lessons for anything in the world." Commented Fulwiler modestly: "The payment is just his face."

**B-52 Losses**—We recently reported that the Pentagon had not announced the total number of B-52s lost during the massive bombing of North Vietnam, he information was given to us by a reliable source who had access to the tightly restricted strike reports. What he told us was accurate at the time. But by the time our story reached print, all but one of the 16 B-52 losses had been announced. The last loss was announced shortly thereafter. Not released, however, was the news that half-a-dozen additional big bombers were so badly damaged they can't fly and some can't be repaired.

**Two Per Cent Loans**—The White House decided to end 26 years of two per cent loans under the Rural Electrification Administration without telling the two bureaucrats most concerned—Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and REA head David Hamil. Both men have grumbled that the White House first failed to consult them, then ordered Butz's office to put out the bad news about the end of the loans. The low interest loans were the joy of farmers but a bugbear to the politically strong, investor-owned power companies, which backed President Nixon during the election. The loans had provided 25 million customers in 26 states with cheap electricity.

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## Weapons Seized in Rome

By PAUL HOFMANN

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Sept. 5—Military policemen early today raided an apartment that a young Arab had rented for the month at the nearby beach at Ostia, and seized two Soviet-made lightweight launchers for ground-to-air missiles.

Tonight, Italian security sources said that the weapons were apparently to be used by Arab commandos to attack an airliner of El Al, the Israeli airline, after take-off from the nearby international airport at Fiumicino or during the landing approach.

Two El Al aircraft passed through Fiumicino airport today, one on a westbound flight from Tel Aviv to New York, the other on a Tel Aviv-Rome-Tel Aviv flight. Both jetliners arrived and departed with long delays but without any incidents.

Five Arabs were detained and questioned. Their passports identified them as Mahmoud Nabil Mohamad Azmikamy, 23 years old, born in Tripoli, Leb-

anon; Ghassan Ahmed al-Harithi, 26, born in Baghdad; Gabriel Khouri, 30, born in Damascus; Amin Elhendi, 28, an Algerian, and Tayeb Ali al-Fergani, 26, a Libyan.

### Arrest Warrants Issued

After the five Arabs had been questioned during most of the day, a magistrate issued arrest warrants against all of them on charges of illegal importation of arms.

The magistrate ordered the five men taken to a prison at Viterbo, a city 50 miles northwest of Rome, apparently because it offered better security than the overcrowded jails at Rome. The five Arabs were transferred to Viterbo under strong police escort.

The police said that Mr. Azmikamy was alone in the furnished apartment of a residential building in Ostia, a suburb of Rome, when it was searched at 12:30 A.M. The four other Arabs were later arrested in a small hotel in the center of Rome.

The policemen who searched the Ostia apartment found the missile launchers in a cupboard. The police said that the equipment was fully operational and that no other arms were found.

Sources close to the investigation said that weapons experts had identified the missile sophisticated type of rocketry "that in Italy exists only on the drawingboards."

According to a description made available to newsmen, the two missile launchers are metal tubes about four feet long that can be fired from the shoulder by pulling a trigger.

### Range of 3 Miles

Specialists here said that such portable launchers, widely used in Vietnam against United

States aircraft, could fire missiles with heat-sensitive homing devices at a range of up to three miles.

According to unconfirmed reports late tonight, the missile launchers were found complete with two solid-fuel rockets and warheads with conventional explosives.

Flight paths and holding patterns for aircraft criss-cross

the airspace over Ostia.

Security informants here said that the search of the Ostia apartment had been requested by Italy's military intelligence agency. According to these sources, information had been received since last month that Arab commandos would meet in Rome to carry out a spectacular attack on Sept. 5.

Intel Act 62u

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## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST

Saturday, Oct. 13, 1973 E53

# Faisal Tells Nixon of Pressure on Oil

By Jack Anderson

In private messages to President Nixon, Saudi Arabia's King Faisal has warned that he is under tremendous pressure to shut off the oil spigot if the United States appears to be siding with Israel in the Middle East conflict.

Sources who have had access to the messages tell us the King's language is careful but the meaning is unmistakable. Faisal tells of past Arab pressure on him to hold back oil from the United States, which has asked him to increase production to meet the anticipated shortage here.

Arab passion over the war, he suggests, has intensified the pressure on Saudi Arabia to halt all oil shipments to the West. He implies cautiously that he won't be able to withstand the pressure if the United States seems to favor Israel.

Before the Syrian-Egyptian attack upon Israel, alleges one intelligence report, Faisal agreed to provide the money to replace Egypt's military losses. Another intelligence report claims Faisal also promised to relocate Egypt's civil air fleet in Saudi Arabia during the renewed hostilities. At this writing, however, we have been unable to learn whether Egyptian planes have actually been moved to Saudi soil.

Footnote: The bridging equipment that the Egyptians used to cross the Suez canal,

apparently, came from the Soviet Union. Months ago, a secret intelligence report asserted: "The U.S.S.R. has supplied Egypt with enough bridging equipment to lay up to nine bridges 260 meters long, with a carrying capacity of 60 tons each, as well as two bridges with a carrying capacity of 12 tons each. The U.S.S.R. has also provided Egypt with 30 sets of minefield-breaching equipment to open passages" on the Israeli side of the Suez.

Kissinger vs. Sisco—Before the Middle East outbreak, say competent State Department sources, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was preparing to ease out his top Middle East expert, Assistant Secretary Joseph J. Sisco.

The able Sisco has distinguished himself by his handling of the delicate Israeli-Arab problem. But the Middle East, according to our sources, is an area that Kissinger intends to manage personally.

Further, Sisco has been one of the few State Department officials with the courage to buck Kissinger. During the India-Pakistan war, for example, when Kissinger was exhorting the State Department to abandon the avowed U.S. policy of neutrality and "tilt" for Pakistan, Sisco quietly dug in his heels.

Meanwhile, Kissinger has been secretly rebuilding his National Security affairs staff.

At his bidding, Winston Lord, a protege who has been on leave, has now returned to Washington and is back at work in the White House basement.

The fact that Kissinger had Lord's telephone tapped hasn't seemed to trouble Lord who has frequently traveled with Kissinger. At the Paris peace talks, Lord was photographed carrying Kissinger's bag.

"Now that Kissinger is wearing two suits," one foreign service officer told us, "Lord will have to carry two suitcases."

Henry Kissinger's State Department is only beginning to take form, but it already has developed a new tilt toward the White House.

Needy Elderly—We recently reported on the plight of some five million senior citizens, most of them living on pitiful pensions, who have been overtaken by poverty. Happily, our story "energized the Senate," according to staffers of the Select Committee on Aging.

A bill to get a 7 per cent increase in Social Security payments for the elderly was suddenly passed by the Senate Finance Committee. Also, 56 other senators joined Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) in sponsoring the measure after our story appeared.

The legislation should now make it through Congress, unless the House Ways and Means Committee decides to bottle it up.

Another Loophole—A hired lobbyist is working the backrooms of Congress trying to chisel a wider loophole in the tax laws for doctors, lawyers, accountants and the like.

The quiet lobbying effort is coordinated by the Beverly Hills, Calif., law firm of Crulshank and Antin. The strategy is described in a private memo from the law firm.

"Approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000 of legal work and lobbying will be required," states the memo. "The \$50 per professional is essential and is being secured. . . It will be forwarded to the law firm in Washington, D.C., which will be the 'unofficial' lobbyist. . ."

The Washington operation is directed by the Danzansky and Dickey law firm, with lobbyist Lou Diamond doing the button-holing and backslapping on Capitol Hill.

The professionals have already succeeded on the Senate side in amending the pension reform bill—worth an estimated \$125 million a year for them in saved taxes. Now the lobbying campaign is centered in the House.

Footnote: Diamond told us only about \$10,500 has been collected so far to fund the lobbying drive. He contended that the small corporations, formed by professionals, should be given equal treatment with large corporations.

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THE WASHINGTON POST

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# Soviet Spy Satellites Scan Mideast

By George C. Wilson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union has been launching spy satellites in rapidfire order to keep track of the Arab-Israeli war, a fresh measure of the vital interest the superpowers are taking in the conflict.

The United States also has an eye in the sky—a Sa-

mos-type satellite launched by a Titan IIIB-Agena rocket combination on Sept. 27 from Vandenberg Air Base before the October war started in the Mideast. But ground commanders may be able to order the satellite over the battlefield.

In the meantime, the U.S. Air Force is almost certainly taking pictures of the fighting with high-flying spy

planes—like the SR-71 which made runs over North Vietnam during the war there despite the Soviet-made SA-2 anti-aircraft missiles on the ground.

But it is the Soviet use of satellites to gather fresh battlefield intelligence that had American space authorities excited yesterday. They noted that such use of the expensive eyes in the sky

means that Russia has given them a tactical role on top of their usual strategic job of counting American missiles.

Russia's Cosmos 596 spy satellite went up on Oct. 3 and was brought down ahead of the usual schedule on Oct. 9. The new Arab-Israeli war broke out on Oct. 6. Ordinarily, such picture-taking satellites stay in space about 12 or 13 days.

Even before Cosmos 596 came down with its 5,000 pounds of cameras and pictures another spy satellite was launched from the Soviet space port of Plesetsk. This second shot, designated Cosmos 597, went up on Oct. 6—the day the Egyptians crossed the Suez Canal. It, too, was brought down early—on Oct. 12.

A third satellite, Cosmos 598, was rocketed into space on Oct. 10. If the Soviets stick to their emergency schedule, Cosmos 598 would be parachuted down by radio command to Russian soil today.

A fourth satellite, Cosmos 599, was launched yesterday from a different Soviet space port—Tyuratam—with the war theater as the probable target for its cameras.

The Voskhod spaceship which has been carrying the film and cameras over the Mideast is big enough to carry two astronauts in spacesuits on civilian missions. Thus, Voskhod in its unmanned spying role is big enough to take lots of combat pictures for Russian leaders. Perhaps pictures of Israeli deployments are going to Arab war leaders as well.

The first two of the

cheaper Voskhod satellites were launched so their cameras could photograph Israeli battlefields around noon when the light was best. The Cosmos 596 flight, according to military officials, carried cameras for photographing broad areas of the Mideast while Cosmos 597 had cameras for zeroing in on specific locations and taking sharp pictures.

On a typical spy mission, Voskhod flies around the globe several times snapping pictures and then makes a "soft" parachute landing near Karaganda—a city about 1,400 miles south-east of Moscow. The spaceship loaded with film sends out radio signals to help guide helicopters to the landing spot.

In contrast to the Soviet satellites which just went up for a few days and then came back down, the United States has been concentrating on reconnaissance space ships which can stay up a long time. But Russia's rapid-fire shots for the October War may cause some reassessment of that trend within American intelligence circles.

The capture of the U. S. Navy spy ship Pueblo off Wonsan, North Korea, in 1963 and the downing of the EC-121 spy plane in 1969, also off North Korea, demonstrated the risk of manned reconnaissance platforms. The United States since then has launched a giant, unmanned spy satellite known as the Lockheed Big Bird. It can stay in space for months at a time gathering a wide array of information about activities on the earth below. But it is a very expensive vehicle.

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## SOVIET SAID TO GET ORBIT VIEW OF WAR

Rusians Launch Satellites  
—U.S. May Be Watching

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

The Soviet Union has orbited four reconnaissance satellites in less than two weeks, an unusual launching rate that is being interpreted in Washington as evidence of Soviet efforts to monitor the Middle East war almost continuously with cameras.

The frequency with which the satellites are launched and then brought back to earth could give the Soviet military valuable tactical information on Israeli land, sea and air forces as well as on movements of the United States fleet in the Mediterranean, according to informed sources in Washington.

It was not known whether any of the information is being passed on to the Arabs.

American observers of Soviet space activities recalled that similar "quick-look" reconnaissance satellites were deployed during the India-Pakistan war in December, 1971.

### U.S. Could Be Active

The United States could be receiving photographs of the Middle Eastern conflict from an Air Force Agena satellite that was launched on Sept. 27 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. A more advanced American reconnaissance satellite, launched on July 13, could also be monitoring the area, although the satellite is thought to be approaching the end of its lifetime.

The Air Force will not discuss the operations or results of its secret satellites.

Following a long-standing practice, the Soviet Union gives its reconnaissance satellites the Cosmos designation, a broad label also applied to experimental payloads, some scientific missions and failed planetary probes. About two of the reconnaissance satellites are launched a month, each remaining in orbit 10 to 14 days.

According to tracking data provided by the Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Md., the first Soviet satellite that could have observed the Middle East was Cosmos 596, which

was launched Oct. 3 — three days before the outbreak of war between the Arabs and the Israelis. Whether the timing was a coincidence or an indication of advanced notice of the fighting could not be determined.

### Cosmos Returns Early

But Cosmos 596 was commanded to return to earth on Oct. 9 — three days after the war began and six to eight days earlier than usual.

The Soviet reconnaissance satellites, weighing about 5,000 pounds, are known to be variations of the Vostoks used for early manned space flights, including the pioneering orbital flight of Yuri A. Gagarin in 1961. The exposed film is returned with the entire spacecraft, which comes down in the Soviet land recovery area near Karaganda in Kazakhstan.

American reconnaissance satellites are capable of releasing capsules of exposed film for return to earth. It is thus possible for a satellite to remain in orbit longer and release several capsules at regular intervals. They are returned to the Pacific Ocean, where they are picked up by Air Force planes just before they splash down.

### Others Are Launched

On the day the war broke out, a second Soviet satellite, Cosmos 597, was sent into orbit. It, too, was returned after only six days.

A third satellite, Cosmos 598, was launched on Oct. 10 and is still in orbit. The fourth satellite, Cosmos 599, was launched on Monday.

One reliable source in Washington said that the satellites were "definitely" reconnaissance vehicles of the "recoverable type." Their orbits are such that they could pass over the Middle East several times in a mission at altitudes of 122 to 200 miles.

From such a vantage point, the source said, the Russians could gather "tactical or near-tactical information — such things as order of battle, truck and tank movements, types of aircraft on airfields and the number of ships in harbors."

Commenting on the Soviet space surveillance, Soviet Aerospace, a weekly newsletter published in Washington, said:

"During the India-Pakistan War operation, one of the satellites was returned in 5 days, the next in 6 days, the next in 11 days, and the last in 10 days. The duration of standard operational Soviet recon/survey satellites was then, and is now, on the order of 12 or more days.

"While the India-Pakistan War space surveillance was the first full-scale use of reconnaissance/surveillance satellite systems for keeping a fleet under continuous observation, this will be the first time that a full-scale war has been placed under continuous space surveillance. Further, it could possibly also represent the first use of the system by the Soviets to provide combat information to their allies."

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NEW YORK TIMES

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## Advisers From Hanoi Said to Assist Syrians

By LESLIE H. GELB

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18—Jets piloted by North Koreans clashed with Israeli jets in the Middle East war today, according to a United States official. Intelligence sources also said that North Vietnamese advisers were accompanying Syrian forces.

No losses were given for either side in the reported Israeli-North Korean air encounter. The location of the fighting was not pinpointed, but there was reason to believe that it took place south of Cairo and not near the Suez Canal.

### Known by Intelligence

About 30 North Korean pilots have been flying base defense missions in Egypt well south of the canal for about two months. This has been known by Israeli and American intelligence from the beginning, but they doubted that the North Koreans would engage in combat except near their base.

American and Israeli intelligence sources also said that Iraqi, Algerian and Libyan pilots and planes were now engaged in the Middle East war, while Government officials reported that a number of Soviet and East Europeans cargo ships were headed toward the Middle East.

At the same time, Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger said that the United States would send supplies to Israel "to whatever level required to prevent a serious military imbalance in the Middle East."

### Rise in Soviet Advisers

American officials said today that there had been a gradual rise in the number of Soviet advisers in Egypt and Syria over the year. They would not give any figures and refused to attach significance to their revealing this increase only now.

At the daily Pentagon briefing, Mr. Beecher said that "there are a number of rumors, but no hard evidence, to support the assertion that advisers from countries outside the Arab nations are involved in the hostilities." He went on to clarify that this meant other than North Koreans.

Officials and intelligence sources who did not want to be identified said that North Vietnam was the nation involved. They said that several reports had come in to support this, but would not give final confirmation of North Vietnamese involvement.

The reports, they said, identified North Vietnamese as performing advisory functions with Syrian air-defense and artillery units. The sources had no idea of the number of North Vietnamese advisers. Previous reports had indicated that Soviet advisers were with Egyptian and Syrian forces. No Russians were known to be in combat roles.

### Algerians and Libyans

Israel air units have been fighting on the Syrian front for several days now. But the involvement of Algerians flying MIG's and Libyans flying Mirage jets is new, according to American and Israeli sources.

As a backdrop to these reports, American officials informed newsmen that Soviet air shipments to the Mideast had been "slightly higher" than average in the last 24 hours.

Mr. Beecher also said that

five Soviet transport ships had cleared the Turkish Straits on their way to the Middle East. Their contents were not known, he said, but added it was possible that "modest" numbers of Soviet infantrymen were aboard. Soviet ships, he said, had carried marine forces into the Mediterranean before.

Officials also disclosed that a sizable number of Soviet-bloc cargo ships had arrived or were en route to the Middle East. Pentagon sources said that total of Soviet shipments to the Middle East had reached 6,500 tons and were going to Iraq, as well as to Egypt and Syria. These sources put the American total at about a third to a half that of the Russians'.

Pentagon sources also said today that the Russians had supplied Arab forces with at least one new weapons system, the modified SAM-7. Fired from the shoulder in bazooka fashion, this missile is now track-mounted

with eight launcher tubes to be fired in salvos. It is a variation of the Soviet Strella missile, and in conjunction with other missiles and antiaircraft units, has had a telling effect on the air war.

There have also been reports, but no hard evidence, according to Pentagon sources, that Soviet Scud missiles had been introduced into the Arab arsenal. The Scud is a medium range surface-to-surface missile.

### Schlesinger Before AFL-CIO

Today, appearing before the AFL-CIO convention in Bal Harbour, Fla., Secretary Schlesinger assessed developments in the Middle East.

He said that Washington "first attempted to tamp down the conflict." But he added, "In the face of a massive Soviet airlift which started last Wednesday, and which we were unable to persuade the Soviets to end," the United States had to respond with shipments of its own.

Mr. Schlesinger termed the American resupply "selective," but determined to preserve the balance of forces in the conflict.

This was the first time an American official had publicly said that Washington had tried to reach agreement with Moscow on mutual restraint in resupplying the belligerents, and had failed.

It is also unusual in diplomacy to have such a public revelation come from the Secretary of Defense rather than from the Secretary of State.

### Questioned on U. S. Troops

Talking to reporters afterward, Mr. Schlesinger first said that the United States would "absolutely not" send its own forces to fight in the Middle East. But in response to another question, he noted that Secretary of State Kissinger had said that if Soviet forces entered the Middle East war, the issue of American military personnel "would be rethought."

For several days now, sources throughout the United States Government have been saying that Washington did not have good information on the Soviet resupply effort. In other words, they are saying, Moscow is making little effort to assuage American fears about what it is doing in the Middle East.